

Patent  
10/815,499REMARKS

Claims 2-9 are now pending in this application. Claims 1 and 10-18 have been canceled. Claims 2, 4 and 5 have been amended so as to be rewritten in independent form. Claims 6 and 7 have been amended to depend from Claim 2. Claims 2, 4 and 5 are the only independent claims.

First, Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 4, 5, 8 and 9 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 4 and 5 have been so rewritten, and Claims 8 and 9 depend from Claims 4 and 5, respectively. Accordingly Claims 4, 5, 8 and 9 are believed to be clearly in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent Publication 2003/0234444 (Smith et al.) and Claims 1 and 6 were rejected as being anticipated by US Patent 6,919,625 (O'Shea et al.). In view of the foregoing claim amendments and cancellations, each of these rejections is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Specifically, the cancellation of Claim 1 renders the rejection of that claim moot.

Claim 2 however, has now been rewritten in independent form, and is believed to be patentable over Smith. Claim 2 includes the limitation that the bottom lead frame has a first edge and an opposite second edge, the second edge *having a reduced portion* extending outward from the die-attached portion of the bottom lead frame, wherein the reduced portion has a portion of the bottom lead frame removed from each of opposite sides thereof (see, for example, reference numeral 61 of Fig. 6(b) of Applicant's disclosure).

The rejection states (first full para. Page 3) that "Smith discloses the bottom lead frame 14 has a first edge and a second edge (see Fig. 1), the first edge opposite the second edge, and the second edge of the bottom lead frame 14 having a reduced portion...". However, Applicants can find *no teaching or suggestion* in Fig. 1 of Smith, nor in the corresponding description of Fig. 1 in Smith's specification, of such an element. Should the Examiner maintain the rejection of Claim 2, clarification as to such teaching in Smith is requested.

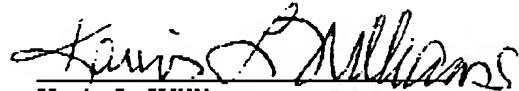
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Claims 3, 6, and 7 all depend from Claim 2, and are believed patentable over the art of record for at least the same reason as Claim 2, and also for reciting additional distinguishing limitations.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner be of the view that an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the application at large, request is made that the Examiner telephone the Applicant's undersigned attorney at (908) 518-7700 in order that any outstanding issues be resolved.

The Examiner is authorized to charge all fees due and owing in respect to this amendment to deposit account number 50-1047.

Respectfully submitted,



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